

**MINUTES OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:15PM SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2017**

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 32 BWISC members present. He thanked Grosvenor for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises. The Chairman noted that Charles Freeland, past President of the Circle, had died on 9 April after a long illness. A full obituary will appear in a later edition of the Bulletin.

Charles was a giant of BWI philately, possessing a keen intellect and prodigious knowledge. His joining the BWISC was announced in the March 1971 Bulletin, which already contained three brief articles written by him on his favourite colonies: Antigua, Bahamas and British Guiana. He has written very many other articles since, including articles for the London Philatelist, the Collectors Club Philatelist and the BCPSEG journal. Although initially reluctant, he was persuaded to write books, too, and completed titles on *Tobago*, *Nevis*, *Antigua*, and *St. Vincent*.

The Chairman asked members to stand in silence for a minute to reflect on Charles' life and contribution.

He then invited each person to introduce themselves and their collecting interests.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Ron Cronin, Chris Harman, David Horry, Simon Kelly, Alister Kinnon, James Podger, and John Riggall.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 23 April 2016, as published in Bulletin No. 249, June 2016, pages 18 to 21, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)**

(i) The Circle had taken a table at Worpex, Swinpex and Scotex, as planned. Nigel Chandler and Simon Goldblatt had represented the Circle at Essen. Peter Ford and others had taken a table and participated

at New York 2016. There was a meeting at Autumn Stampex, with members giving informal displays.

(ii) Circle members had given displays (under the banner of the Circle) at local philatelic societies including Telford, Amersham, Nottingham and Barnet. We gain from this also through indirect publicity when these societies publicise their events.

(iii) The Editor of GSM had contacted the Secretary seeking an article on Barbados, and Charles Freeland had provided an article, published in the November 2016 issue. A further article for GSM is being prepared by Alister Kinnon, on St Lucia.

(iv) The cycle of events in alternate years seems to work well. However, the Secretary would welcome suggestions for additional events where it would be useful for us to be represented.

(v) The Secretary receives occasional requests for help with philatelic questions and tries to forward them to members with relevant expertise.

(vi) Arrangements for the Convention have been completed and the programme will be announced in the next Bulletin.

(vii) The Membership Secretary had kindly provided the following information.

Membership Stats as at end of 2016:

	Members	UK	EUR	RoW
End 2015	312 (63)	200	19	93
Joined 2016	30			
Rejoined	5			
Deceased	2			
Lapsed/Resigned	5			
End 2016	340 (83)	208 (43)	25 (5)	107 (35)

Figures in brackets are paperless

These figures show an encouraging increase. It is noticeable that a large part of the increase has

occurred among overseas members, which is excellent. This must reflect the efforts of those who have attended overseas events on behalf of the Circle.

(viii) The next event would be our table at Midpex 8 July 2017, 10am—5pm, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

The Chairman noted that a new events banner had been produced, designed by David Horry, and was on display at the entrance to the room.

#### **5. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)**

The past year has been another good year for content in the Bulletin and it has been a pleasure to receive articles from more new contributors. Long may this continue.

On another note the recent passing of Charles Freeland, my go-to man when contemplating publishing articles received for the Bulletin, and my hospitalisation just before last year's AGM makes it obvious that there is a need to strengthen the editorial team. To this end I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with the preparation of the Bulletin.

Peter Ford and Steve Jarvis have, as always, helped maintain the Bulletin's high standard by proof reading each edition and liaising with the printers.

#### **6. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)**

There was a surplus of £390 in 2016. This was lower than 2015 for various reasons: the Auction had made an exceptionally high contribution in 2015; production costs for the Antigua book had been incurred

in 2016, though there had been a grant from the BPA towards this; the Circle had bought back the remaining stock of the Marriott Trinidad book from BCPSG. The accumulated fund nevertheless rose to £13,650. The Treasurer thanked John Davis for auditing the accounts and for all the advice and help he had given.

There was discussion of issues related to potential taxation. It was confirmed that the Circle did not engage in commercial trading. A number of members with relevant experience indicated that, while it was worth keeping in mind as it could conceivably be relevant to aspects of our activity in the future, charitable status was not something the Circle should seek at this time.

#### **7. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)**

There has been a loan of three books to one member during the year. The library is, however, still being used to provide information which cannot be found on the internet.

I have corresponded with seven members during the year about shipping lines and routes, airmail rates and routes, Barbados forged postmarks, a Windward Islands Governor, Belize antiquities and British Honduras plantations. Some of the queries are quite challenging and on one occasion I placed a request for information in BWISC Bulletin which resulted in very helpful information being received from two members, thank-you.

Please feel free to contact me on any British Caribbean philatelic, historical or geographic topic. I cannot guarantee to know the answer personally. Frequently the answer is somewhere in the library, but if it is not, I know a man who can provide the information required.

#### **8. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)**

In 2016, we only published one book, 'The Colonial Bank in the West Indies' by Mike Rego. This was

a book in our Study Paper series and dealt with a subject on the edge of philately but interesting nevertheless. Only publishing one book however did not mean that I was slacking in any way. Work was ongoing on the projected Bahamas book by Peter Fernbank. We came to an agreement with the Royal Philatelic Society that this was to be a joint project with each society paying half the cost and reaping half the income. The book is, for all intents and purposes, complete. We are just waiting for a slot in the Royal's publishing programme. I have been advised that it will be out well in time for our Convention in October. Those wishing to obtain a copy then should let me know in good time so that we bring sufficient copies for sale. We have also been working on a book on St. Vincent; this will carry on from where the Pierce, Messenger and Lowe book left off. Co-authored by Charles

Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan, this should be ready in the very near future. The book is complete now and will stand as a memorial to Charles, whose philatelic writings have kept us busy for several years.

Sales have been good as well. We have sold 195 books this last year, the top seller was the Antigua with 36 copies sold and second was the St. Lucia Classic Collections with 17 sold. The total sales came

to £4,724 which after David Druett's commission realised just under £4,000. We took as many books to the 2016 NEW YORK show in June as we could carry. I have to thank all of our members who helped carry them over. Had we been able to carry more, I'm sure we would have sold them all. To show the diversity of our publications, I took my own personal copies of the Study Papers and Classic Collections; I ended up selling them all at the show!

I was finding lately that producing a large book, such as the Bahamas with over 350 pages meant that

I was being overloaded, not only typesetting the book but also processing the images that had been sent. To this end, I recruited Mike Rego to doing the donkey work on the images and in order that he can do this, we are renting a suitable program for him to use. He has been working very hard and no sooner do I send him images that they come back in a perfect form.

Future projects include one by David Horry on the Temporary Registered Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad. Several others are in embryo at this time.

Chris Southgate enquired as to the scope of the St. Vincent book being prepared, and it was explained that it would cover the period from 1898 to 1965, and a wide range of topics including postal stationery, censor marks, and inland mails.

## **9. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)**

I am pleased to report on another successful year for the Study Circle. Our events have been well attended. We had our AGM and auction at Spink auction rooms and it was pleasing to find that, despite hard economic times, realisations, although down on previous years, were still very healthy. We had a lively attendance at Stampex where, in a room booked by our ever efficient Secretary, the informal displays generated a lot of discussion on many diverse subjects. One of our members who had attended a meeting of another specialist society at Stampex said, compared to ours, theirs was a bit like a funeral! It is heartening for those of us who organise such events to see that we are a vigorous society with members always willing to participate.

We have seen our quarterly Bulletin coming out punctually with interesting articles; our Editor is to be congratulated on this. The number of advertisers helps us keep the cost of its production down to manageable levels. Our finances are, as always, in a healthy condition enabling us to be able to pursue our ambitious aims with confidence. We are able to hold our Convention every two years with a sizeable financial input from our coffers. This is all the result of our Treasurer's guardianship of our finances.

Also our financial position has enabled us to continue an active publications programme.

Two of our members were awarded Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society in November last. They are Michael Medlicott and Simon Richards; congratulations to them both! We were delighted to be able early in the season to have a display of Barbados and British Guiana from the Royal Philatelic Collection at the Royal. A feast in anyone's eyes! Later, in October, Michael Medlicott displayed his Classic Revenues of the British West Indies at the Royal, an event much praised.

This is the fifteenth time I have stood up here to give the Chairman's Report and I have decided that enough is enough. In consultation with the President and the Committee, we have decided that, subject

to approval of this Meeting, Graham Booth will take over the reins with Steve Jarvis acceding to the Chairmanship in 2019. I feel that this is a sensible succession plan which I hope all members present will agree.

Before I finish, I want to thank my Committee members, past and present. No society can be run by one person and any President/Chairman needs the support of his Committee members and I have been lucky in my tenure that I have received such support. Thank you, gentlemen. On this subject, very briefly, the Committee decided that we needed more younger (less old?) members to serve on the Committee and we recommend John Jordan and Geoff Richards who have volunteered, for you to vote on in a few minutes.

**10. Election of the Chairman of the Committee**

The election of Graham Booth was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Simon Goldblatt. Graham Booth was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

**11. Election of Officers and elections of John Jordan and Geoff Richards to the Committee**

The existing Officers and Committee Members were re-elected.

The elections of John Jordan and Geoff Richards were proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Nigel Chandler and Graham Booth. They were duly elected.

**12. Election of the Auditor**

John Davis was re-elected as auditor.

**13. Other Business**

Michael Medicott proposed a vote of thanks to the Auction Team for another excellent catalogue and auction.

Nigel Chandler announced that he and others would be taking a table on behalf of the Circle at Essen Internationale Briefmarken-Messe, 3–5 May 2018. He encouraged members to come along as helpers on the Circle's stand. They could contact him for information and even a lift, Essen being just four hours from Dunkirk.

Graham Booth stood to thank Peter Ford for his work and leadership over 15 years as Chairman: He had put his personal stamp on the Circle, which is one of the strongest in the country. Even as many other societies, particularly local stamp clubs, are going the other way, the Circle has been strong. It was excellent that he would continue to run the very successful publications activity. Peter had served beyond the call of duty. The members present applauded loudly.

All business having been covered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2016**

	£'s	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>INCOME :</b>			
Subscriptions		4,510	4,316
Publications - Sales less commissions		3,782	4,479
Articles for publication		-	723
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,704	2,674
Other donations		-	26
Interest received		7	7
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><b>10,003</b></u>	<u><b>12,225</b></u>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>			
Bulletin - Costs less advertising receipts	416		(234)
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>2,666</u>	3,082	<u>2,474</u>
Publications :			
Printing costs	6,500		
Purchase Trinidad books	2,099		
Less : BPA Grant	<u>(3,000)</u>	5,599	5,217
Honiley convention costs net of recovery		-	400
Other room hire & meeting costs		248	380
ABPS affiliation fee		250	213
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		71	487
Bank charges		102	93
Exhibition entry fees		150	-
Website		111	113
		<u><b>9,613</b></u>	<u><b>9,143</b></u>
<b>SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	£'s	<u><b>390</b></u>	£'s <u><b>3,082</b></u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2016**

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2015		13,052	9,852
Add : Surplus for the year		390	3,082
Exchange conversion profit		208	118
	£'s	<u><b>13,650</b></u>	£'s <u><b>13,052</b></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>			
Cash at banks		12,668	11,743
Debtors - amounts due to us		5,594	3,993
Prepaid expenses		700	-
		<u>18,962</u>	<u>15,736</u>
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,851)		(2,664)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(2,461)</u>	(5,312)	<u>(20)</u> (2,684)
	£'s	<u><b>13,650</b></u>	£'s <u><b>13,052</b></u>

**AUDITORS REPORT**

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2016 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2016 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

*J G M Davis 10th April 2017*

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